

Q1

Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss in the backdrop of rural urban integration.

Answer: At present the urban centres houses around 30% of the total population of India. These numbers are rapidly increasing with almost half of India's population projected to live in its cities by 2030.

However without the development of rural areas, the sustainability of smart cities is not certain. Rural urban integration is a pre condition for development of India:

- Large scale migration to urban centres put pressure on the urban centres thus resulting into creation

of slums and reduced standard of living.

- Flooding of wage labourers in the cities reduce the average wage and job security thus affecting the income of migrant labourers.
- Smart villages with modern education, medical and housing facilities, regular power supply will reverse the migration from urban areas to rural areas.
- Once the village and semi-urban areas starts providing job opportunities the large scale migration to big cities can be checked.

Therefore creating smart villages is the only way where in both the smart villages and smart cities could co-exist in sustainable manner.